

Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Gardiner Greene Hubbard, February 25, 1879, with transcript

L. 1879 Telephone Drawer 33 Boston, Reorganization of Co. February 25. offering Mr Hubbard presidency

A. G. Bell to G. G. H. — I understand that a letter has been sent to you offering you the Presidency of the new company. I do not know the contents of the letter, and I would like to have a talk with you before you take any action upon it.

The condition of affairs has materially changed since Mr. Morgan was here. There is no personal feeling against you in the minds of the monied men who now control everything. They honestly believe — I am certain — that you are the best man for President at the same time that they have not confidence in your business abilities. Mr. Forbes told me that from the little he had seen of you and from all he could gather from others, that you were a man of great resources and abilities. That you always had excellent suggestions to offer and that you were always fertile in expedients. He thought that you could be of the utmost service to 2 A.G.Bell to G.G.H. — — the company as President, and that all would like you to be in that position if it could be arranged so that the directors could have the benefit of your thoughts and suggestions and yet, that you should not have the power to force anything upon them.

My opinion of the position taken by the monied men is that they want you to be President — but are afraid of giving you much power. Bradley will side with Forbes in everything. Sanders has sold out 600 of his shares at \$65 per share, to friends of Mr. Forbes, and will take no further active part in the affairs of the Telephone Company. He resumes his business in Haverhill, shortly. He has promised me that he has said his last word against you — and that he will not oppose your election to the Presidency, although 3 A.G.Bell to G.G.H. — though he will not promise to vote for it. I think that I have said all I can upon the

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subject of the Presidency, and that any further suggestions of mine, just now, might disturb the harmony that prevails just now.

At the meeting yesterday, Sanders kept his promise and did not open his mouth. I think it best to let well alone — and leave affairs now to work out their own solution.

I recommended that the President of the Bell Telephone Co. be elected President of the National Bell Telephone Co.; that the President of the New England Telephone Co. be elected a Vice-President, and that the new stockholders elect another Vice-President. This, I understand has been substantially agreed upon. I trust that all will be harmonious now. Nothing was said about 4 A.G.Bell to G.G.H. — salaries and I have thought it best not to force matters any further at present. I shall wait for Mr. Smith's arrival and hope to return tomorrow.

I fear I shall have no time, today, to write to Mabel. With much love to Mamma, Gertrude, Berta, Elsie, and last but not least — to May, etc. Your affectionate son Alex. P. S. Have sent a note to May enclosing cheques to the amount of \$115. Trust she will receive them safely.